

Additional Views of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren
on H.R. 4858
To Improve Access to Physicians in Medically Underserved Areas

HR 4858 was brought to markup in the full committee without any consideration by the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims. HR 4858 was never vetted in a hearing at the subcommittee level nor was it scrutinized in subcommittee markup. We have received no reports from the State Department or the INS or other agencies about the need or impact that additional physicians may have in underserved areas. In fact we have no way of knowing whether the addition of a nominal number of physicians per state will resolve the problems of medically underserved communities. Lastly, I am very concerned about the unfairness that the “same size fits all” formula has for larger states like California and Texas.

This bill was introduced late, but I would expect the Chairman of the Immigration Subcommittee to keep track of the visa programs that are part of American law, to anticipate problems and not merely react.

Zoe Lofgren